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MONTANA

ECONOMIC

INDICATORS

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Research and Analysis Section
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

NOVEMBER 1973

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MONTANA
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

AN ANALYSIS OF PAST AND PRESENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Prepared by:
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
BOX 1728
HELENA, MONTANA

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Employment, Hours and Earnings, and Labor
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The economy of the United States during the last quarter continued to defy the experts. While some economists predict a recession within six months, others are predicting a general economic slowdown and at worst a "growth recession". Whether or not the recession is severe or light, most economists agree that unemployment will increase, shortages and inflation will continue.

The fact that shortages and inflation appear to be having an impact on the economy already is reflected in the Consumer Confidence Index^{1/} prepared by the University of Michigan, which took the sharpest drop in its 25-year history. Consumers are obviously becoming pessimistic.

As the nation goes, so should Montana. However, the value of Montana's indicators appears inconsistent with the national mood, and inconclusive at this time as to the direction of Montana's economy. Montanans may rest assured, however, if the nation slumps into a recession, it will be felt by Montanans as harshly and for a longer period of time than the rest of the nation because of the state's lack of industrialization.

Only a few of Montana's indicators match national trends. Average weekly hours and accessions are down. Layoffs are down somewhat from the previous year. Average weekly initial claims showed sharp increases over last year, but in the month of August the large increase was due mainly to the end of the forest fire season and subsequent layoff of firefighters.

Building permits are down nationally but continued to grow in Montana. The number of permits is expected to decline in the near future, but the actual work on the buildings will begin in 1974 so the construction industry will probably not be hit as hard as other industries in the event of a recession. Naturally, with the growth in the number of building permits, the dollar valuation has increased but inflation would have caused an increase, regardless.

^{1/} TIME, October 29, 1973, page 113.

Average weekly insured unemployed remained level with last year. One encouraging note is found in the unemployment rate which dropped substantially from last year's level.

Manufacturing employment displayed moderate growth as did the nonagricultural employment index. Civilian work force index also shows a very moderate growth.

Bank debits reached their highest level in the state's banking history. This, however, is due almost entirely to inflation. Nonagricultural placements are showing definite growth over the past few years. Montana's composite index shows only slight improvement over last year but this trend is not expected to continue because of recession trends.

The brightest spot in Montana's economic picture is the farm index. Even though prices paid by farmers continued to grow, prices received shot out of sight. It is this sector of the economy that is basically responsible for the \$9 million plus surplus in the state coffers.

Average hourly earnings continued a very slow rate of growth which should be encouraging but is not. All it means to the wage earner is that his raise put him in a higher tax bracket, more tax dollars are being taken from him, and he has not kept up with inflation. Lumber and wood products employment is about level with last year.

New corporations in Montana continued to grow over previous years while dissolutions and withdrawals remained relatively insignificant in number.

What does all the foregoing mean? With inconsistent trends in the various indicators offsetting one another, it is difficult to draw valid conclusions at this time except that inflation, periodic shortages of goods and services, and tight money conditions will probably continue into 1974.

MONTANA LEADING INDICATORS

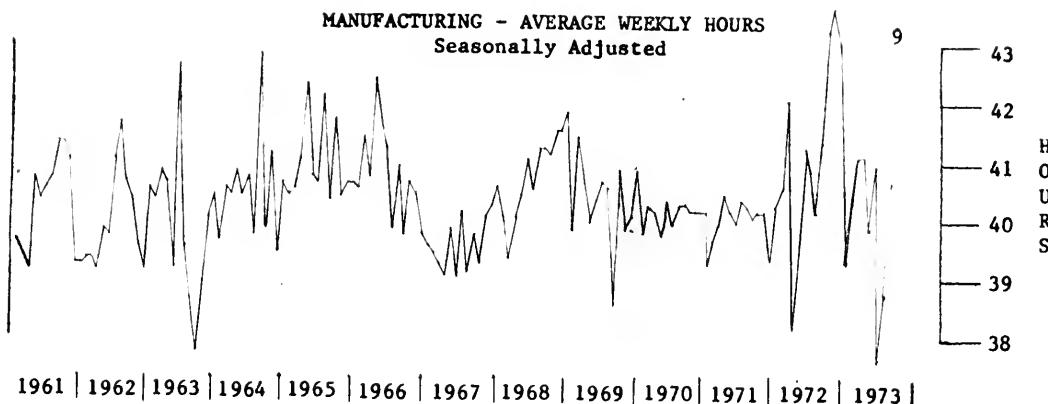
1971 1972 1973

	Manufacturing- Average Weekly Hours		Manufacturing- Total Accessions (Per 100 Employees)		Manufacturing- Layoffs (Per 100 Employees)	
	UNADJUSTED	ADJUSTED	UNADJUSTED	ADJUSTED	UNADJUSTED	ADJUSTED
<u>1971</u>						
January	40.3	40.1	3.4	4.9	2.4	2.1
February	39.4	39.6	2.1	3.7	1.1	1.2
March	39.7	39.9	5.3	6.6	1.4	2.1
April	39.7	40.4	5.4	4.5	1.1	1.4
May	40.2	40.1	5.0	3.7	0.4	0.6
June	39.4	39.9	7.2	3.9	0.6	0.8
July	39.9	40.3	5.6	4.8	0.8	1.0
August	41.2	40.2	4.4	4.4	1.4	1.2
September	40.5	40.0	4.6	3.9	0.9	0.9
October	40.3	40.1	4.5	4.1	1.2	0.8
November	39.9	40.1	2.1	3.8	1.2	0.9
December	39.5	39.3	2.0	3.6	0.9	0.7
<u>1972</u>						
January	40.5	40.2	2.6	3.8	0.9	0.7
February	40.4	40.5	2.3	4.1	1.1	1.2
March	41.7	42.0	3.2	4.0	2.9	4.3
April	37.4	38.1	3.1	2.6	0.4	0.5
May	37.3	37.2	4.4	3.2	0.5	0.7
June	40.7	41.2	5.6	3.0	0.7	0.9
July	40.4	40.8	5.1	4.4	0.9	1.2
August	41.1	40.1	4.3	4.3	2.0	1.7
September	41.8	41.3	5.3	4.5	2.1	2.0
October	43.6	43.4	4.6	4.2	1.4	1.0
November	43.4	43.6	2.2	4.0	1.7	1.2
December	43.2	43.0	2.5	4.5	1.9	1.5
<u>1973</u>						
January	40.3	39.3	2.6	3.7	1.0	.8
February	40.3	40.4	2.3	4.1	2.8	3.1
March	40.8	41.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6
April	40.3	41.0	3.9	3.3	1.1	1.4
May	39.9	39.8	5.4	3.9	.7	1.0
June	40.5	41.0	6.4	3.5	.5	.7
July	37.3	37.6	4.2	3.8	.7	.9
August	39.8	38.8	4.2	4.2	1.5	1.3
September	41.2	40.7				
October						
November						
December						

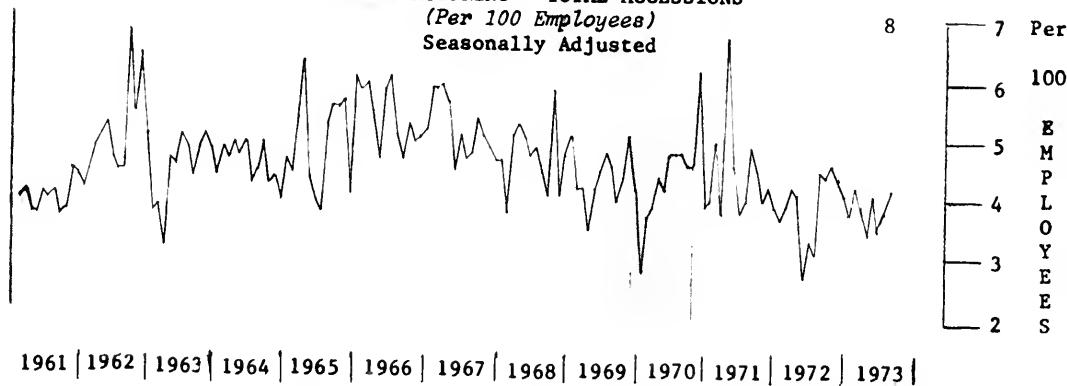
NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data and the use of indexes are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers. See Glossary.

MONTANA LEADING INDICATORS

MANUFACTURING - AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS Seasonally Adjusted

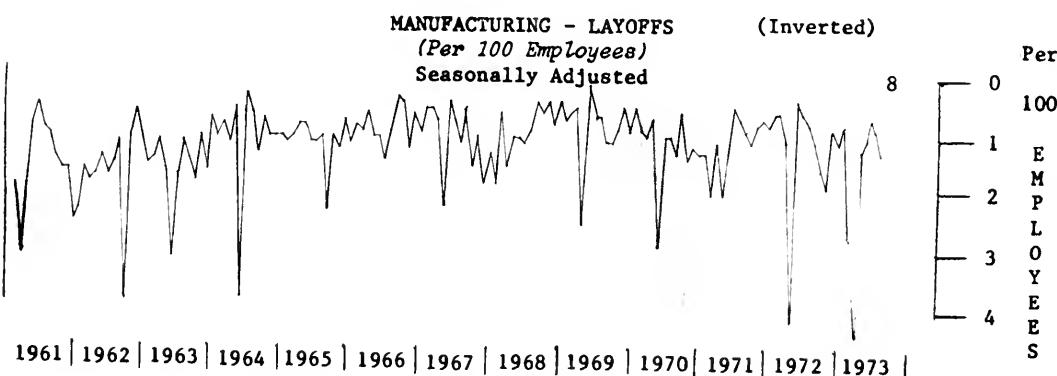


MANUFACTURING - TOTAL ACCESSIONS (Per 100 Employees) Seasonally Adjusted



MANUFACTURING - LAYOFFS (Per 100 Employees) Seasonally Adjusted

(Inverted)



MONTANA LEADING INDICATORS

1971 1972 1973

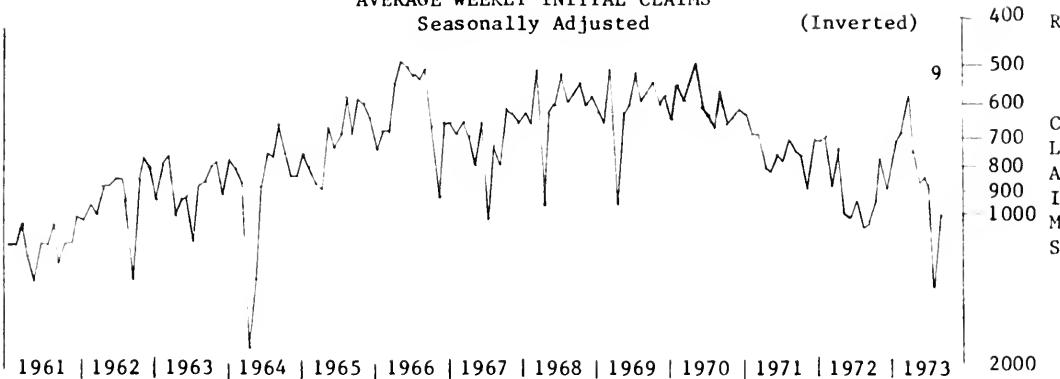
	Average Weekly Initial Claims		Building Permits		
			Number		Valuation (In 000's)
	UNADJUSTED	ADJUSTED	UNADJUSTED	ADJUSTED	UNADJUSTED
1971					
January	1,195	586	106	274	\$ 2,123
February	912	703	153	289	1,740
March	849	741	277	311	3,742
April	705	730	443	319	6,418
May	450	763	364	287	8,426
June	543	828	406	306	6,162
July	534	827	382	309	4,780
August	967	1,863	410	365	8,693
September	849	1,608	357	277	5,370
October	735	958	387	309	9,046
November	901	755	228	280	4,044
December	1,256	761	136	276	5,243
1972					
January	1,428	709	105	273	\$ 2,067
February	883	690	159	302	2,740
March	1,003	871	398	448	6,531
April	712	737	514	365	9,527
May	585	992	473	372	13,566
June	667	1,017	532	401	11,160
July	611	946	392	317	5,043
August	563	1,085	437	389	6,533
September	555	1,051	454	352	12,834
October	713	931	452	361	8,244
November	919	770	344	423	8,994
December	1,465	887	136	276	4,572
1973					
January	1,443	717	152	396	4,102
February	885	692	155	296	2,967
March	673	588	433	487	12,254
April	728	754	463	329	9,398
May	516	875	483	380	9,528
June	561	855	419	315	9,851
July	632	978	436	352	11,637
August	769	1,482	462	411	10,258
September	555	1,051			
October					
November					
December					

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data and the use of indexes are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers. See Glossary.

MONTANA LEADING INDICATORS

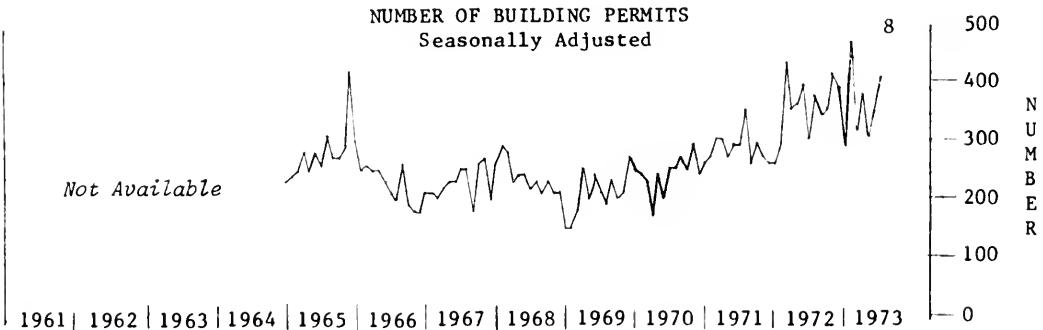
AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS
Seasonally Adjusted

(Inverted)



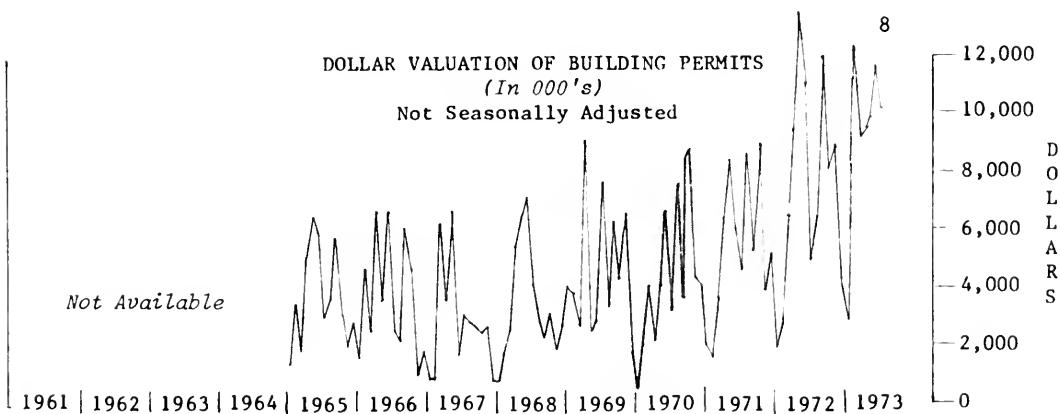
NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS
Seasonally Adjusted

Not Available



DOLLAR VALUATION OF BUILDING PERMITS
(In 000's)
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Not Available



MONTANA COINCIDING INDICATORS

1971 1972 1973

	Average Weekly Insured Unemployed		Unemployment Rate (Percent)		Unemployment Total (In Thousands)	
	UNADJUSTED	ADJUSTED	UNADJUSTED	ADJUSTED	UNADJUSTED	ADJUSTED
<u>1971</u>						
January	9,033	4,893	8.8	6.9	23.7	19.7
February	9,116	4,750	9.0	6.8	24.5	19.8
March	8,533	4,807	8.3	6.5	23.1	18.9
April	6,636	5,132	7.0	6.5	20.3	19.1
May	4,332	5,226	5.8	6.3	17.1	18.5
June	3,609	6,410	7.1	6.5	22.5	19.1
July	3,978	7,339	6.2	6.9	19.8	20.5
August	5,442	11,880	5.9	7.6	18.9	22.6
September	4,229	10,625	5.7	7.5	16.9	22.5
October	4,888	11,111	5.3	7.3	15.3	21.4
November	5,926	8,394	6.2	6.4	18.2	19.0
December	7,377	6,002	7.2	7.1	20.9	21.3
<u>1972</u>						
January	9,582	5,191	9.3	7.3	26.0	21.7
February	12,269	6,393	9.3	7.1	26.3	21.3
March	8,744	4,926	8.8	6.9	25.6	20.9
April	6,588	5,095	7.5	7.0	22.4	21.1
May	5,197	6,284	6.8	7.4	20.5	22.2
June	4,077	7,242	7.7	7.2	24.9	21.2
July	4,542	8,380	6.5	7.3	20.4	21.2
August	4,424	9,659	6.4	8.3	20.6	24.7
September	3,642	9,150	5.9	7.9	17.7	23.6
October	4,979	11,341	5.9	8.1	17.0	23.8
November	6,370	9,023	7.2	7.4	20.9	22.0
December	8,582	6,983	9.7	9.4	28.1	28.9
<u>1973</u>						
January	11,050	5,986	9.2	7.2	26.2	21.9
February	10,244	5,338	8.1	6.2	23.1	18.7
March	7,796	4,392	7.7	6.0	22.2	18.2
April	6,886	5,326	6.7	6.2	19.8	18.7
May	4,914	5,942	6.0	6.5	18.2	19.7
June	3,671	6,520	7.4	6.8	23.8	20.2
July	4,506	8,314	6.3	7.1	20.5	21.3
August	4,437	9,688	5.6	7.2	17.7	21.2
September	3,718	8,118	5.3	7.1	15.8	21.1
October			5.3*	7.2*	15.2	21.2
November						
December						

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data and the use of indexes are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers. See Glossary.

* Forecast.

MONTANA COINCIDING INDICATORS

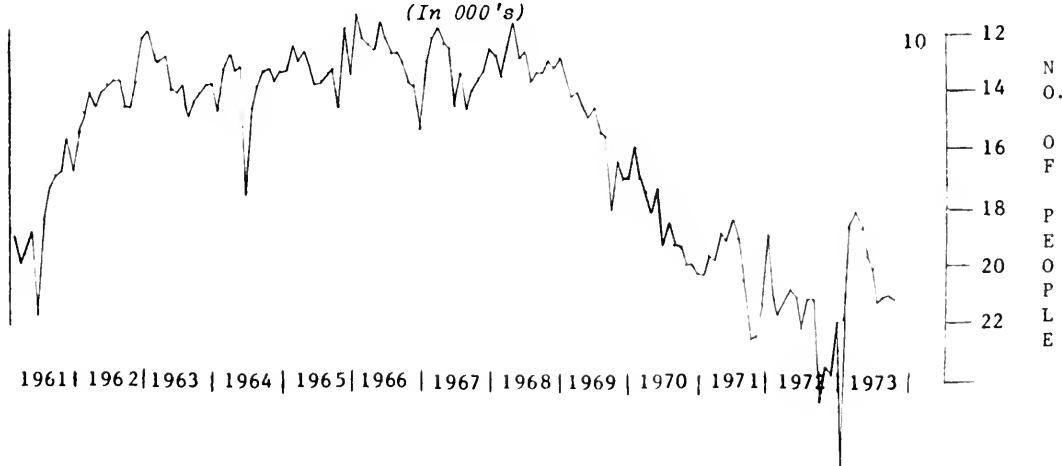
AVERAGE WEEKLY INSURED UNEMPLOYED
Seasonally Adjusted
(In 000's)



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Percent)
Seasonally Adjusted



UNEMPLOYMENT TOTAL
(In 000's) Seasonally Adjusted (Inverted)



MONTANA COINCIDING INDICATORS

1971 1972 1973

	INDEX: 1967 = 100					
	Montana Manufacturing Employment (In Thousands)		Nonagricultural Employment INDEX		Civilian Work Force INDEX	
	ADJUSTED	UNADJUSTED	Montana*	U. S.	Montana*	U. S.
<u>1971</u>						
January	23.7	23.0	104.8	106.7	105.3	108.2
February	23.7	22.8	105.7	106.6	106.5	107.8
March	23.7	22.8	106.5	106.5	106.2	107.9
April	24.0	22.8	105.9	106.6	107.0	108.2
May	23.7	23.2	106.3	107.1	107.1	108.6
June	23.8	24.4	106.3	106.8	106.8	107.9
July	21.6	22.5	104.2	107.4	107.7	108.6
August	22.0	22.8	104.3	107.6	108.7	109.1
September	22.7	23.2	104.9	108.0	108.6	109.2
October	24.7	25.5	107.3	108.2	106.8	109.5
November	25.0	25.4	108.6	108.5	108.4	110.0
December	24.9	24.9	108.4	108.7	109.3	110.1
<u>1972</u>						
January	25.9	24.8	108.7	109.4	109.3	110.7
February	25.7	24.7	109.0	109.5	109.6	110.6
March	25.1	24.1	110.6	110.2	110.7	111.5
April	25.0	24.0	108.9	110.4	110.7	111.4
May	24.8	24.3	108.2	110.8	110.2	111.7
June	24.6	25.2	107.3	111.2	108.9	111.9
July	24.4	25.4	105.6	111.1	106.2	111.9
August	24.3	25.2	104.7	111.2	108.8	112.4
September	24.3	24.9	104.0	111.5	108.1	112.6
October	24.8	25.6	106.2	111.6	107.0	112.8
November	25.1	25.4	107.2	112.0	108.0	112.5
December	25.2	25.2	108.2	112.2	111.5	112.8
<u>1973</u>						
January	25.4	24.6	112.1	112.1	111.2	112.4
February	25.7	24.7	112.7	113.0	110.9	113.2
March	25.2	24.3	114.0	114.0	111.7	114.1
April	25.5	24.2	112.1	114.3	110.3	114.2
May	25.0	24.5	111.5	114.5	110.7	114.3
June	25.1	25.7	110.0	115.2	108.2	115.0
July	24.8	25.9	109.3	115.0	109.9	114.8
August	25.3	25.9	109.0	114.8	108.4	114.6
September	25.2	25.8	109.2		109.2	
October			112.5**		108.5	
November						
December						

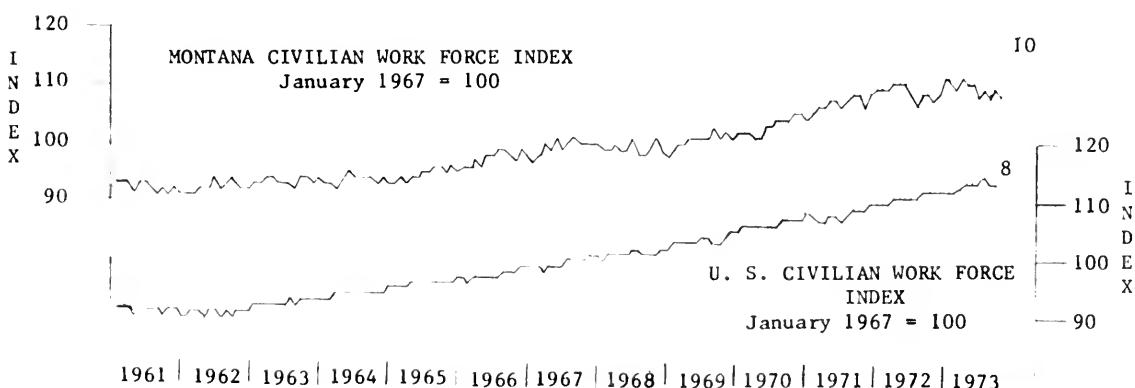
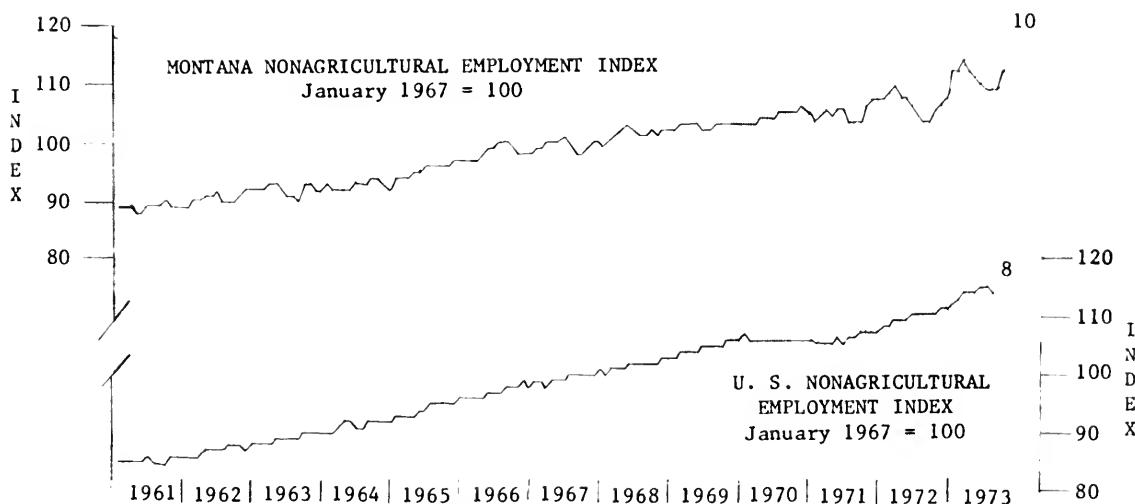
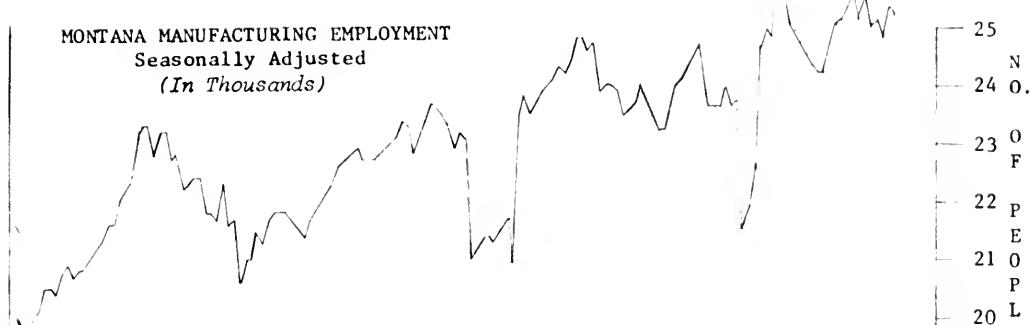
NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data and the use of indexes are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers. See Glossary.

* Revised to 1972 Benchmarks.

** Forecast.

MONTANA COINCIDING INDICATORS

9



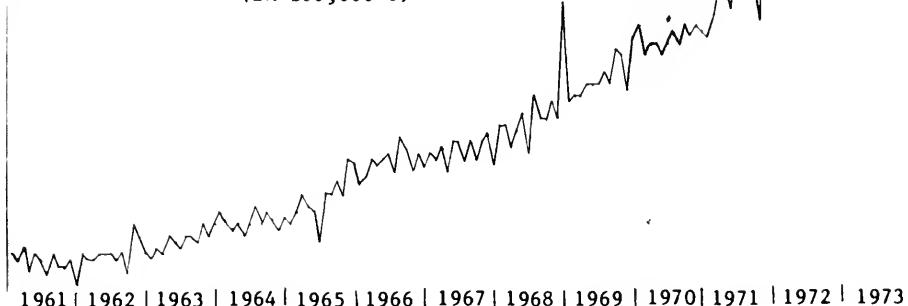
	MONTANA COINCIDING INDICATORS			MONTANA SELECTED INDICATOR			MONTANA COMPOSITE INDEX		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
	State of Montana Bank Debits (In 100,000's)			Total Nonag. Placements (In 000's)			Composite Index* 6 Leading Indicators 1967 = 100		
	UNADJUSTED	ADJUSTED							
<u>1971</u>									
January	874.1	835.7		1,359			125.0		
February	770.0	877.0		1,736			97.6		
March	893.9	924.4		1,272			99.2		
April	890.8	926.0		1,834			95.7		
May	821.5	883.3		2,966			113.4		
June	991.8	986.9		2,720			104.6		
July	909.9	916.3		2,561			98.2		
August	895.1	948.2		3,810			91.0		
September	920.6	929.9		2,844			91.9		
October	937.2	862.2		2,292			115.2		
November	1,139.5	1,053.1		2,214			102.4		
December	1,160.3	1,037.8		1,678			107.8		
<u>1972</u>									
January	1,044.3	1,008.0		1,496			107.8		
February	960.8	1,091.8		1,746			102.0		
March	1,030.9	1,066.1		2,202			97.3		
April	961.9	1,000.0		2,513			117.1		
May	1,112.7	1,196.4		3,197			104.7		
June	1,113.4	1,107.8		3,715			101.6		
July	1,036.3	1,043.6		3,931			99.2		
August	1,074.8	1,138.6		5,516			96.1		
September	1,013.7	1,023.9		3,941			93.8		
October	1,238.6	1,139.4		3,362			103.5		
November	1,235.4	1,141.7		3,075			108.0		
December	1,202.9	1,075.9		2,100			105.0		
<u>1973</u>									
January	1,333.0	1,286.7		2,228			116.0		
February	1,043.5	1,186.8		1,922			106.0		
March	1,221.7	1,263.4		2,411			107.4		
April	1,230.4	1,279.0		2,936			89.6		
May	1,259.8	1,354.6		3,747			99.3		
June	1,265.4	1,259.1		3,914			102.9		
July	1,341.2	1,350.6		3,972			102.0		
August	1,345.6	1,425.5		5,738			97.7		
September							103.0		
October							101.0**		
November									
December									

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data and the use of indexes are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers. *See Glossary.

** Forecast.

MONTANA COINCIDING INDICATORS

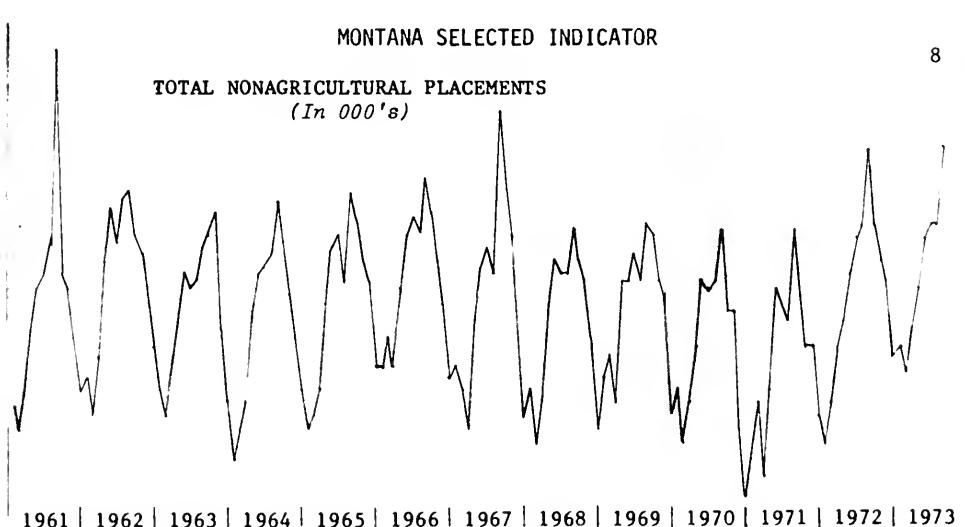
STATE OF MONTANA BANK DEBITS
Seasonally Adjusted
(In 100,000's)



8 - 11
- 10
- 9
D
- 8 O
L
- 7 L
A
- 6 R
S
5
4

MONTANA SELECTED INDICATOR

TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS
(In 000's)

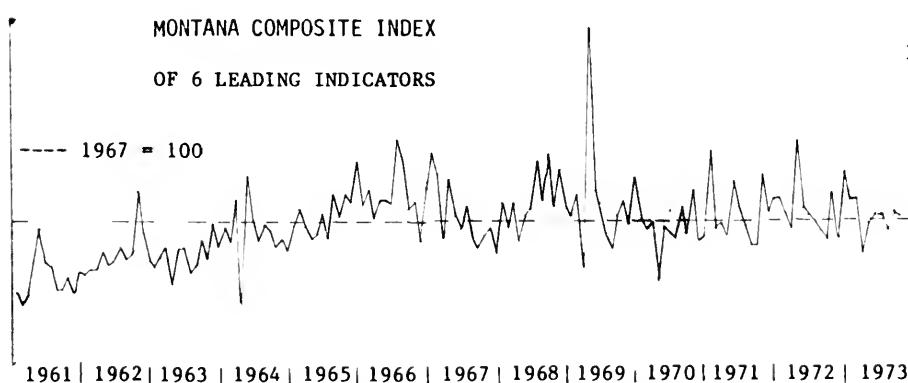


10 R
9
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5 N
4 O
F
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E
O
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L
E
1

MONTANA COMPOSITE INDEX

OF 6 LEADING INDICATORS

---- 1967 = 100



170 I
150 N
130 D
110 E
90 X
70

MONTANA SELECTED INDICATORS

1971 1972 1973

1971 1972 1973

FARM PRICE INDEX (1947-1949=100)			Average Hourly Earnings Manufacturing (Dollars)	Employment, Lumber and Wood Products	
	Prices Paid	Prices Received	Parity Ratio*	UNADJUSTED (In Thousands)	ADJUSTED
<u>1971</u>					
1st Qtr.	175	98	56	January	3.81
				February	3.85
				March	3.88
				April	3.90
2nd Qtr.	177	95	54	May	3.94
				June	3.96
				July	4.02
3rd Qtr.	180	98	54	August	3.99
				September	4.09
				October	3.90
4th Qtr.	184	97	53	November	3.90
				December	3.96
<u>1972</u>					
1st Qtr.	188	106	56	January	3.93
				February	3.93
				March	3.95
				April	3.98
2nd Qtr.	190	107	56	May	4.04
				June	4.10
				July	4.14
3rd Qtr.	192	119	62	August	4.11
				September	4.11
				October	4.01
4th Qtr.	197	131	66	November	4.07
				December	4.08
<u>1973</u>					
1st Qtr.	206	153	75	January	4.24
				February	4.39
				March	4.40
				April	4.39
2nd Qtr.	215	158	74	May	4.42
				June	4.53
				July	4.62
3rd Qtr.		214		August	4.63
				September	
4th Qtr.				October	
				November	
				December	

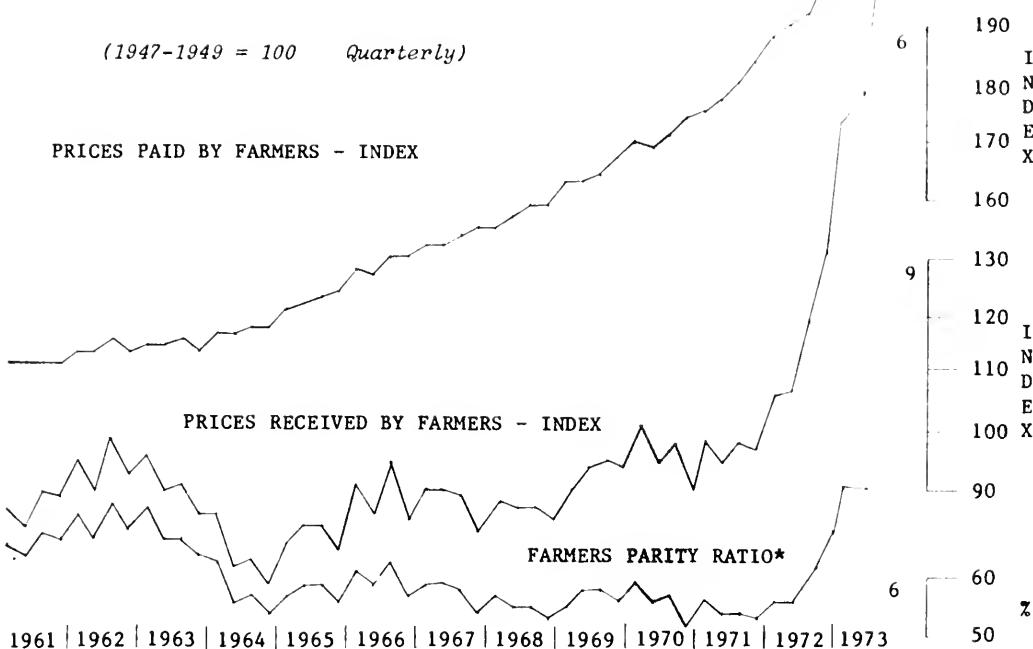
NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data and the use of indexes are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

* See Glossary.

MONTANA SELECTED INDICATORS

(1947-1949 = 100 Quarterly)

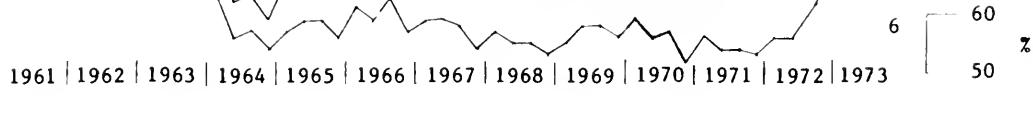
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS - INDEX



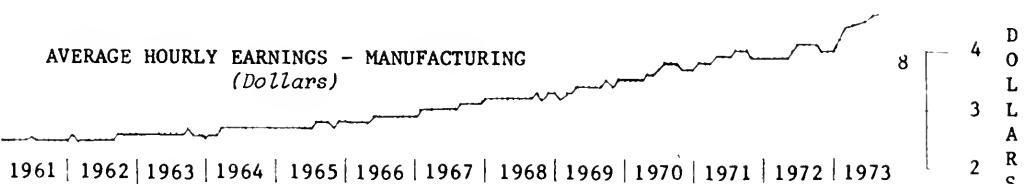
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - INDEX



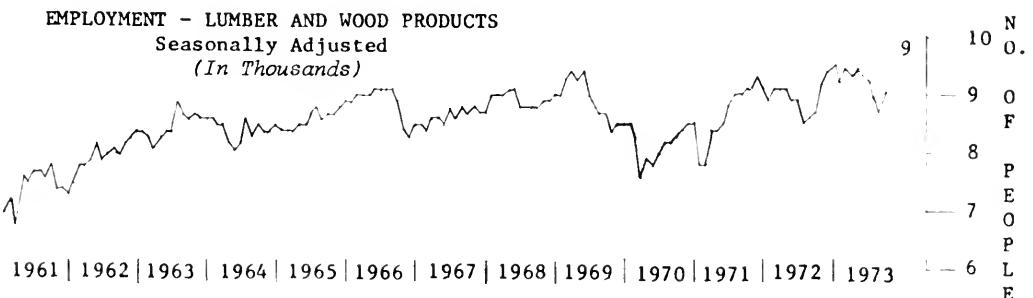
FARMERS PARITY RATIO*



AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS - MANUFACTURING (Dollars)



EMPLOYMENT - LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)



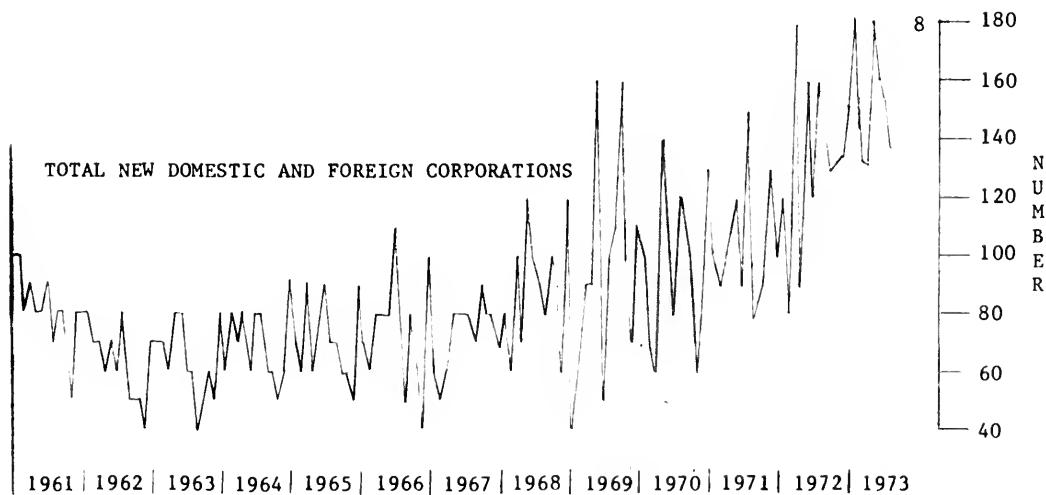
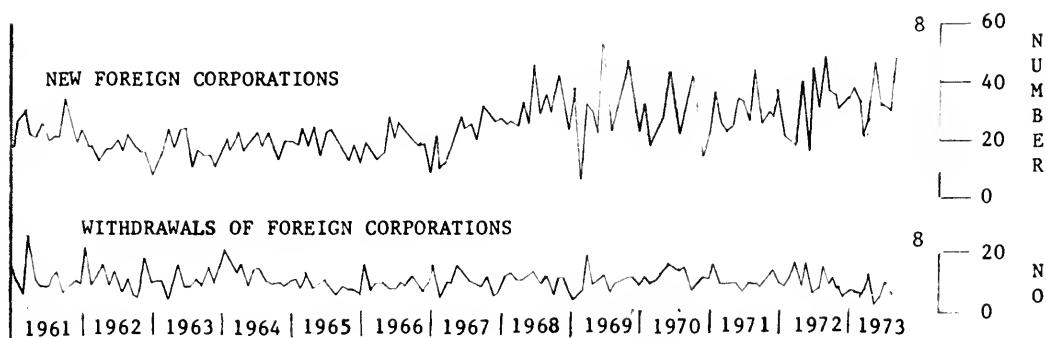
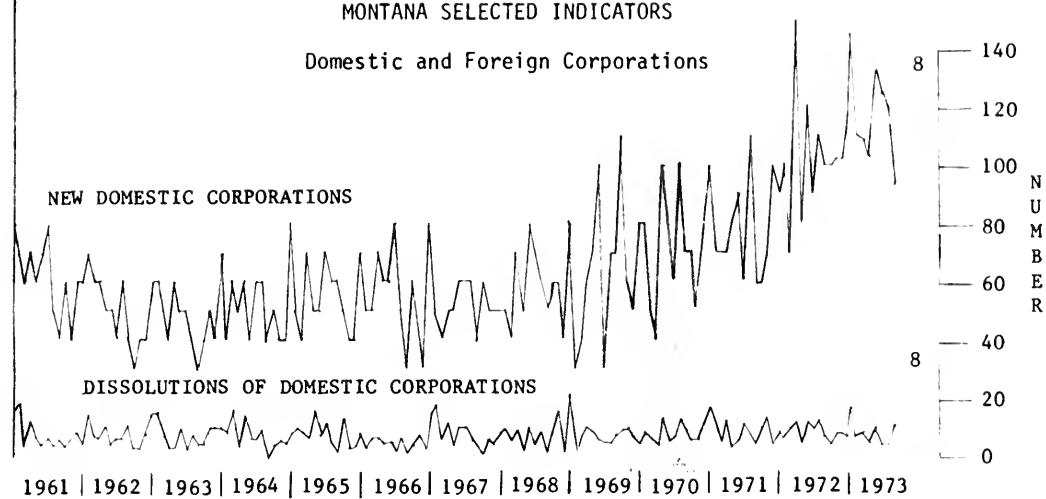
* See Glossary.

MONTANA SELECTED INDICATORS

1971 1972 1973

	New Domestic Corporations	Dissolutions of Domestic Corporations	New Foreign Corporations	Withdrawals of Foreign Corporations	Total New Domestic and Foreign Corporations
<u>1971</u>					
January	73	12	25	12	98
February	67	5	21	6	88
March	74	12	23	6	97
April	78	4	33	6	111
May	87	5	31	6	118
June	63	11	25	4	88
July	108	8	43	6	151
August	58	5	26	6	84
September	64	10	28	5	92
October	70	13	26	7	96
November	97	5	36	10	133
December	93	8	21	6	114
<u>1972</u>					
January	101	6	18	5	119
February	67	9	17	7	84
March	146	11	39	13	185
April	76	5	15	5	91
May	118	11	43	13	161
June	88	10	30	2	118
July	111	12	47	4	158
August	100	7	35	11	135
September	99	4	34	6	133
October	102	8	31	10	133
November	102	8	33	6	135
December	118	7	34	8	152
<u>1973</u>					
January	146	18	36	7	182
February	112	8	32	6	144
March	110	9	23	8	133
April	104	6	28	12	132
May	134	11	47	3	181
June	126	5	35	5	161
July	120	4	31	9	151
August	87	11	49	6	136
September					
October					
November					
December					

MONTANA SELECTED INDICATORS
Domestic and Foreign Corporations

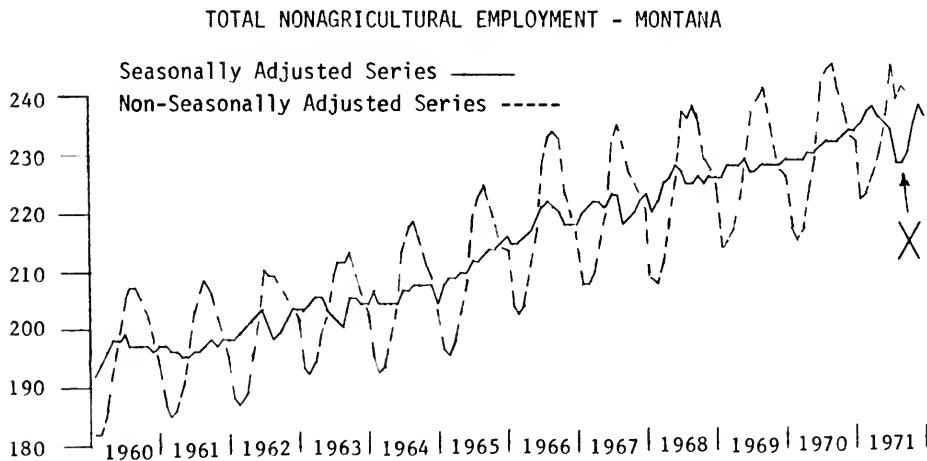


APPENDIX I

GLOSSARY

Seasonal Adjustment - A mathematical procedure in which certain monthly or yearly variations such as climate, holidays, vacation practices, etc., are removed from the statistics. The purpose of this is to simplify analysis over a long period of time and to highlight such non-seasonal occurrences as strikes, natural disasters, floods, earthquakes, etc.

Non-Seasonally Adjusted - or "raw" data will not always reflect such occurrences precisely because of seasonal influences. For example, the following chart is a graph of total nonagricultural employment for the State of Montana for the years 1960 to 1971.



Note the erratic nature of the non-adjusted data, and that a non-seasonal phenomena occurred in 1971 directly above the "X" mark. During this period a labor-management dispute occurred and the seasonally adjusted figures emphasize this point whereas the dispute is not readily apparent in the non-adjusted data. A word of caution is due at this point about non-adjusted and adjusted data. Adjusted data is not a "substitute" for actual data, and should in no way be used as such.

Economic Indicators - Statistical time series whose cyclical characteristics are known and fairly stable, particularly in the timing of their cyclical peaks and troughs relative to business cycle turns. Economic Indicators are used for the interpretation of current, and the anticipation of prospective, business conditions.

Leading Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction sufficiently in advance of changes in total business activity. The peaks and troughs of this type of indicator generally occur from three to several months previous to the peak or trough in total business activity.

Coincidental Indicators - An economic series that tends to parallel the same general pattern of total business activity.

Selected Indicators - A cyclical time series whose true value as an economic indicator is not yet known.

Lagging Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction (reach its peaks or troughs) some time after the total business pattern has changed.

Other Indicators - A statistical series that combines the cyclical changes of the other types of economic indicators. For example, personal income generally lags at the peaks, and leads at the troughs of total business activity.

Montana Composite Index - An aggregate of six leading indicators: Building Permits; Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs; and Average Weekly Initial Claims. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U.S. Dept. of Commerce. The two indexes do not contain the same data, and the Dept. of Commerce used weighted figures while Montana's index used unweighted figures.

Labor Turnover - The movement of wage and salary workers into and out of employment status.

Accessions - All permanent or temporary additions to the employment rolls, which include new hires and other accessions.

New Hires - Permanent and temporary additions to employment rolls of persons who have never been employed by a specific reporting establishment. This includes former employees who have been rehired although not specifically recalled by the reporting employer.

Other Accessions - Additions to the employment rolls of transfers from other establishments of the same company; employees returning from military service or unpaid leaves of absence; employees specifically recalled by an employer.

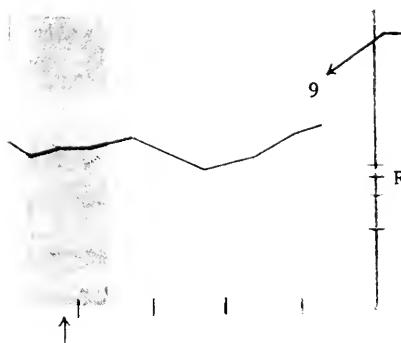
Separations - The termination of employment of persons who quit, are laid off, discharged, retire, die, are inducted into the military for service exceeding 30 consecutive days, suffer physical disabilities, or are transferred to other establishments of the same company.

Quits - The termination of employment initiated by an employee for any reason other than retirement, transfer, or service in the Armed Forces.

Layoffs - Suspension from pay status of an employee, expected to last seven consecutive days. This action must be initiated by the employer without prejudice to the worker, for reasons such as lack of orders, model changeover, termination of seasonal employment, inventory-taking, plant breakdown, technological changeover, shortage of materials.

APPENDIX II

KEY



Arabic numbers above graph lines indicate the last month of the year for which data have been plotted.

"R" indicates that the scale is a ratio (semilogarithmic) scale. All others are arithmetic scales.

Shaded areas on the graph indicate recession periods in the United States as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Broken lines on graphs indicate that data is not available for that time period.

Montana's indicators have been classified into three types; Leading, Coinciding, and Selected. The classification of Montana's Leading and Coinciding Indicators parallels the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis classification. This has been done to facilitate an easier and more accurate comparison of individual indicators with those of the nation. (This classification, however, does not mean that the Montana Employment Service has endorsed any particular economic theory.)

Historical data available upon request.

